



The SYMBOL

BIDDING ADIEU

An auction just a month before his death offered a rare (and expensive) glimpse inside Paisley Park

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adly, most people will never make it inside Paisley Park to see how the flamboyantly anted man, myth, and mononym lived. The next best chance to peek into Prince's inner sanctum comes courtesy of a new auction offering up some of the superstar's fabulously decadent costumes, props, artifacts, and even wedding china.

Nate D. Sanders Auctions organized the event, which is curated by Prince's ex-wife Maye Garcia and former manager Owen Husney, and contains everything from the 2.2-carat diamond engagement ring Prince used to propose to Garcia, his then backup dancer (bidding opened at \$100,000), to the \$100 check Husney gave Prince to cover his living expenses after signing on as his manager in 1977 (bidding opened at \$2,000)—even the wedding dress Garcia wore on the day they married (bidding opened at \$25,000). And there is plenty from Prince's wardrobe, including the red tunic he wore to meet Clive Davis (\$15,000) and the shimmering blue pant suit he wore on the cover of *Rain Is the Top Fantasy* (\$30,000). In a 2013 interview, Garcia reflected on her relationship with Prince, which ended in 2000. "Our entire time

together was amazing and surreal, and he showed me some incredible things and introduced me to incredible people," said the ex, for whom Prince wrote "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World."

The two married on Valentine's Day 1996 in Prince's hometown of Minneapolis. Fittingly, white doves were released as the duo exchanged vows. Prince, as you might imagine, was not a prototypical husband—never taking Garcia on a date (although their home did have a night club inside), always wearing high heels, and, because of his mid-career name change, making it hard for Garcia to address him.

"We never had any pet names, and I don't think in the whole time we were together I called him anything, which I guess is a bit weird," she told *The Mirror*.

"I never called him Prince because I wanted him to be a person to me, not the man behind *Purple Rain*. Plus, technically, I was married to the Symbol. Our house was full of them, but I just couldn't say the word. When we got married it was much easier. If someone else was there I could say, 'Could I speak to my husband please?'"

Even after they agreed to divorce. "There is no animosity or bad blood, and he was my husband and the father of my child," Garcia said. "So although I am not actively in love with him, I will always love him—he's a great guy." □

1. 1959 Gibson L-series acoustic guitar that Prince used to write and record demos in the early days. The guitar can be seen in an early photo of Prince in Husney's home in 1977. **Minimum bid: \$60,000**

2. The catalog immortally describes this item as a "moon and star ear wrap worn by Prince to the 1998 NBA All-Star game that he attended with Spike Lee." **Minimum bid: \$7,000**

3. Prince custom-ordered his own Lenox

china to be used exclusively for his wedding to Garcia. The 40-piece set available for auction features eight sets (each including a large plate, medium plate, small plate, cup and saucer) adorned with Prince's famous "Love Symbol" design, piano keys, and gill edge. **Minimum bid: \$40,000**

4. Handwritten lyrics to "In Love," the first track on Prince's historic first album, *For You*. Written on legal-pad paper in meticulous

handwriting, with small heart-squiggles decorating the title. **Minimum bid: \$7,500**

5. A six-song demo cassette from 1978, which Prince had given to future Revolution guitarist Dez Dickerson for feedback. The tape features early versions of "So Blue," "Gotta Broken Heart Again," and an almost unrecognizable take on "Sometimes It Snows in April." The tape also features two upbeat love songs, and an uptempo rock song

heavy on distorted guitar, all of which remain untested. **Minimum bid: \$20,000**

6. Bespoke faux-sneakers worn by Prince onstage. Includes matching 3.5-inch high-heeled shoes with Prince's "love symbol" in gold metal attached. The shoes measured 9 inches from heel to toe. **Minimum bid: \$15,000**

7. Gold-tone handcuffs covered in rhinestones that were used by Prince during his 1994

performance of "The Most Beautiful Girl in the World" on *Soul Train*. The pair is missing one rhinestone, but is otherwise in working condition. And, most important, the key is included. **Minimum bid: \$10,000**

8. When Prince the musician met Prince Charles in 1999, he wore this gold-colored Scorsio diamond necklace made up of 64 diamonds, with over a foot and a half of chain. **Minimum bid: \$30,000**